



Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Feedback Loop

December 6, 2022

Recommendations, Input and Decisions Made, Status Updates

Follow Up Items from October 4

Office of Innovation, Alignment and Accountability (OIAA) FSKA Data Update

- Can the number of Working Connections Childcare (WCCC) payments be broken down by age of child? Because the child may be eligible for WCCC subsidy but unable to find a space. What are the number of applications are approved versus how many were placed and paid out? Are we seeing increased payments being made on behalf of infants and toddlers? What are the number of applications are approved versus how many were placed and paid out? Are we seeing increased payments being made on behalf of infants and toddlers?
 - Yes, we can definitely break those down and follow up.
- Can you speak to what kind of data are available on Infant Mental Health Consultation (IMHC)?
 - There is a DCYF division who has been hiring mental health consultants but we can follow up and connect you.

Trauma-Informed Care

- Do we go through MERIT training and reimbursement system? This can take several months for processing.
 - Training awards will be dispersed through State Approved Training contractors, who will contact providers about the awards. The training must be recorded in MERIT, however.
- Is the tier system build on each other? Is it about cumulative hours? Is it training specific (e.g. Conscious Discipline for tier 2 and Pyramid Model for tier 3)?
 - Awards are training specific and include those identified by DCYF to have trauma-informed content, including Conscious Discipline and the Pyramid Model, among the others we discussed such as PREPARE for Care and Filming Interactions to Nurture Development (FIND). And while the awards are not about cumulative hours, financial compensation for all awards will be capped at \$1,200. For example, one could complete Conscious Discipline in the second training tier category to receive an \$800 award, and then continue to complete four sessions of PREPARE for Care, in the third tier, to receive an additional \$400.
- Are the awards meant for the individual not the agency?
 - The awards are meant for the individuals.
- If Tier 1 is not mandatory, some incentive would encourage people to take the training.
- How might this align with Right Response training?
 - DCYF will research how Right Response may align with the existing training structure.
- Why is there no compensation for individuals at Tier One? Would like to have a better understanding of the why and wondering if that could be re-considered?
 - DCYF is incorporating the Trauma-Informed and Healing-Centered Foundations Training into Tier One so that all providers who complete Child Care Basics have foundational knowledge of trauma-informed and healing-centered approaches. With the inclusion of the new Trauma-Informed and Healing-Centered Fundamentals Training, Child Care Basics hours will remain the same.
- A little confused about the STARS trainer requirement. I thought most Conscious Discipline was on-line through their website - or is that training STARS approved?
 - Conscious Discipline is delivered by STARS approved trainers.
- Considering ongoing workforce development issues, will the trainings become a requirement going forward? If so, is there an opportunity to streamline requirements?
 - Trainings itemized for trauma-informed care financial awards will not be required.



Community Engagement Transition

Please see the below response to the November 2022 letter from ELAC to DCYF leadership requesting support and information regarding the recent changes to the Community Engagement Team:

December 5, 2022

Re Community Engagement Transition

Dear Members of the Early Learning Advisory Council,

Thank you for reaching out regarding the transition of staffing within the Public Affairs division. First, any staff transition is hard. Deanna was a strong asset to the Department of Early Learning and the Department of Children, Youth, and Families. Her contributions to ELAC and engagement overall are felt throughout our work.

There were some questions about the transition; I want to take this opportunity to share some updates. First, on November 1, 2022 Erin Kerrigan was appointed as Interim Deputy Director for Community Engagement. Erin is deeply committed to the work, has extensive knowledge, skills and experiences in managing engagement work and DCYF as a whole. I am thrilled Erin agreed to step into this role and taken on this opportunity. She has jumped right into the role, providing continuity and stability.

Second, the position for a permanent Assistant Director of Community Engagement was posted in mid-November and interviews are happening over the next few weeks. If all goes according to timelines, this position should be hired and in place shortly after the first of the year.

Third, the engagement team is growing. Within the next few weeks, we will be adding an additional administrator to the team who will bring capacity and focus to grow our formal and informal connections with stakeholders in the child welfare space. This has been a capacity and knowledge gap on the existing team and I am excited to expand our reach through the Public Affairs division.

Thank you for your commitment to the children, youth and families across Washington State. The engagement you have in the early learning space is a valuable asset to DCYF and the state as a whole. I look forward to our continued work together.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allison Krutsinger". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Allison Krutsinger
Director, Office of Public Affairs